

REMARKS

Claims 1-40 are pending in the application. Claims 26, 30, 31, 33, 39, and 40 have been amended to reduce the number multiple dependencies.

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted concurrently with the **Notice to File Missing Parts**, which Notice assesses the fees due in connection with the application to be \$7040. Pursuant to **MPEP 607**, Applicants respectfully request that the Preliminary Amendment submitted herein be taken into account when determining the appropriate filing fees due in response to the **Notice To File Missing Parts**, submitted herewith. Applicants believe that the total additional claim fees should be reduced from \$6140 to \$830. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees required by this submission to our **Deposit Account No. 50-2613**.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe that the entire application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. If it is believed that prosecution can be assisted thereby, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned Representative at the below-listed telephone number

Respectfully submitted,

PAUL HASTINGS JANOFSKY & WALKER LLP

Dated: April 16, 2004

By: *Richard H. Pagliery*

Richard H. Pagliery
Reg. No. 22,276

Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker LLP
P.O. Box 919092
San Diego, CA 92191-9092
Telephone: (858) 720-2500
Facsimile: (858) 720-2555